

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

ScholarWorks @ UTRGV

Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers -
Newsletters

Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers

10-8-1987

Newsletter - 1987-10-08

E. De la Garza

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.utrgv.edu/kikadelagarzanews>



Part of the [State and Local Government Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers - Newsletters, UTRGV Digital Library, The University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers at ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kika de la Garza Congressional Papers - Newsletters by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UTRGV. For more information, please contact justin.white@utrgv.edu, william.flores01@utrgv.edu.

NEWSLETTER

100-1125

8 October 1987

Washington DC

RIO GRANDE POLLUTION BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. Our bill to authorize waste water treatment facilities along the Rio Grande has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and this is where it will receive its initial study.

The State Department and the Environmental Protection Agency will formulate some official Administration commentary on my bill and subsequently the President's Office of Management and Budget will advise the Foreign Affairs Committee on what kind of support to expect from this Administration. My hope is that President Reagan will look kindly on our effort to prevent further pollution of the Rio Grande.

The bill that we have introduced would authorize our U.S. Secretary of State to conclude international agreements with Mexico which would enable both our countries to finance and build (with the technical and administrative guidance of the International Boundary and Water Commission) a series of treatment plants along both sides of the river for the purpose of cleansing both municipal and industrial waste water before it enters the Rio Grande.

The Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations wrote to tell me that his panel has not yet begun formal hearings on the bill--nor has there been any critical examination (we call it **mark-up**). It is our hope the Subcommittee will be able to at least schedule some formal hearings on our bill so that before the end of the year we can perhaps have some critical mark-up and full Committee approval on the bill.

#

SOVIETS VISITING WASHINGTON ON FARM ISSUES. Led by Soviet Minister Victor Petrovich Nikonov, the U.S.S.R. is sending a delegation of senior Soviet officials to visit the United States this week. Your Congressman has the distinct honor of being host to the visiting Russians who are here to tour American agriculture areas and visit U.S. farms, packing and processing facilities, and transport systems used by our agriculture sector.

Minister Nikonov is a member of the Soviet Politburo and represents a level of authority that could only be exceeded by a visit from the General Secretary himself--Mikhail Gorbachev. Minister Nikonov and his delegation will meet with your Congressman here in our House Agriculture Committee headquarters where I will be able to pursue my own great interest in Soviet-American farm trade relationships. The Minister and delegation members will meet with Secretary of State George Shultz and other high level U.S. Administration officials before beginning their week-long tour of America and her agriculture success story.

This visit represents a unique opportunity for us. It is our hope these high level visits will further open the farm trade door between our respective nations, and hopefully add to our quest of living in a world of peace--as friends and neighbors--always striving to make our planet a better place in which to live for all its peoples.

#

KIKA DE LA GARZA, 15TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

FFA HOLDS FIFTH WASHINGTON BOAC CONFERENCE. BOAC means "Building Our American Communities," and it is a term coined by the Future Farmers of America (FFA). For the fifth consecutive year, your Congressman has had the privilege of participating in the annual BOAC awards luncheon in Washington where the FFA distinguishes those young adults who have made exciting and durable contributions to their rural American communities.

The FFA presented me with a bronze plaque naming me the Honorary Chairman of the Fifth BOAC conference. The FFA asked me to make the official greeting and give a short address at the start of the awards luncheon on September 29--and it was my honor to introduce the luncheon speaker, Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry.

The BOAC arm of FFA provides a way for FFA members to participate in the life of the community by lending a helping hand in the construction of community centers, public parks and recreation facilities, land conservation and wildlife preservation--and the like.

After the awards luncheon, I met with representatives of the FFA's special **"Bridge Program."** This program is something we just developed last year--through a Congressional Resolution which your Congressman introduced into the U.S. House--and it establishes special recognition for the contributions of physically handicapped FFA members.

Growing up with a physical disability can involve many bridges for a youngster to cross, and the aptly titled **"Bridge Program"** is the FFA's way of acknowledging the very unique circumstances surrounding work and community contributions by the handicapped in rural America. We applaud this year's "Bridge Award" winners at the FFA BOAC Conference.

#

POTEET RECEIVES MORE EPA ASSISTANCE. The City of Poteet has received an additional \$21,608 in Environmental Protection Agency funds for the purpose of continuing work on replacing the city's sewage treatment plant and making collection system improvements.

This brings to \$544,500 the total funds committed thus far to the Poteet project. The City has contributed \$181,500 on its own, and the EPA has pegged the final cost at about \$726,000. We applaud the EPA commitment and the citizens of Poteet who have given so much of their own resources to continue improving the quality of life in their city and in South Texas.

#

LA VILLA TO BEGIN COMMUNITY CENTER REHABILITATION. The U.S. Economic Development Administration has awarded a \$444,800 grant to the city of La Villa to assist in the renovation and expansion of the city's community center into a new and improved **multi-purpose community center.**

Your Congressman had assisted the city in its quest for these grant funds and the new community center will complement the big pickle factory which we helped set up last year. Employees of the factory can utilize new child day care facilities which will be built, and health and community education programs will be conducted in the multi-purpose facility. We are proud of La Villa and know the funds will be put to great use.

#

VISITORS FROM HOME. U.S. Navy Homeport officials: Hon Carl Duncan, San Patricio County Commissioner and Homeport Steering Committee Chairman, Hon Dale Bietendorf, Mayor of Port Aransas and Steering Committee member, and Mr Brad Arvin, Homeport Coordinator. Also visiting were Tommy Funk of Harlingen, Ken Burns of Freer and Jack Nelson of Santa Rosa.

#